



# NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

*Connecting People, Nature & Community Through Education*

January 22, 2003

The Honorable Greg Nickels  
Mayor, City of Seattle  
600 Fourth Avenue (12th Floor)  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Attn: Regina LaBelle

## **Support for the reconfirmation of Gary Zarker, Superintendent, Seattle City Light**

Dear Mayor Nickels,

I am pleased to contribute this letter of support for Gary Zarker's reconfirmation as Superintendent of Seattle City Light.

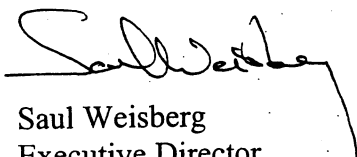
I am the Executive Director of North Cascades Institute, a 16 year-old, nonprofit environmental education organization based in Sedro-Woolley, WA. The Institute's mission is to conserve and restore Northwest environments through education. Each year we work with more than 10,000 children and adults in a wide variety of youth and school programs, teacher workshops, seminars in natural and cultural history, conferences, retreats, and stewardship programs.

I have worked in close partnership with Gary Zarker and Seattle City Light for the past eight years on the creation of the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center. The Center, a joint project of City Light, the National Park Service and North Cascades Institute, will be a residential education facility located in the National Park. As one of the central elements of the 1995 federal re-licensing of the Skagit River dams, the Center and its education programs will help people of all ages learn, enjoy and understand more about our wonderful region. The Learning Center will reach more than 10,000 people each year in a wide variety of field-based and overnight programs.

Gary Zarker has been an advocate of conservation during his tenure at Seattle City Light. He has taken a strong interest in this unique partnership project and dedicated significant resources towards its successful implementation. It is important to us that he continue his leadership of Seattle City Light as we prepare for the opening of the Learning Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my support.

Sincerely,



Saul Weisberg  
Executive Director